

NATIONAL CAPITAL TOPICS.

SHRINKAGE OF BANK CIRCULATION.

EFFECT OF THE CALLS FOR THREE PER CENT BONDS

That the outstanding circulation will diminish more rapidly during the next ninety days than during the last three months seems inevitable. The statement mentioned in THE TRIBUNE of yesterday as in course of preparation in the Controller's Office was completed to day. It shows that the first ad-

other three per cents which have not yet been called, and a few of them may have four per cents or four and a half per cents, that they can deposit in lieu of the three per cents called, and such banks will probably be ready to make the substitution required in order to keep their circulation. How many of them will be able to do so no one can tell.

The effect of the first two calls for three per cent is such as to offer the banks but slight encouragement to buy any more bonds and deposit them as collateral for their circulating notes. Already there is talk among Treasury officials of another call for three per cent before the end of the year; and the receipts from customs and internal taxation since the beginning of October seem to justify that sort. While the customs receipts for last month showed a falling off of \$3,656,794, and the internal revenue receipts showed a decrease of \$3,288,715 as compared with September, 1882, the customs receipts for the last eighteen days show a decrease of only \$89,536 as compared with the same period of last year, while the internal revenue re-

ceipts are greater by \$24,381. The receipts from miscellaneous sources were \$1,230,315 more than for the first eighteen days of last October, the increase in this item being mainly from profits on coinage. In other words, the revenue (\$29,050,264) of the Government for the first eighteen days in October, 1883, exceeded by \$1,215,160 the revenue (\$18,854,094) for the first eighteen days of October, 1882.

If the Secretary of the Treasury felt authorized to do so, he might buy four per cents instead of three per cents for the sinking fund. If that policy should be adopted the reduction of the three per cent loan would be less rapid by some \$45,000,000 a year than at present, and to that extent would

It is doubtless good policy to extinguish the long-term bonds of the Government rather than those payable at its pleasure; for the time is at hand when, with the present rate of receipts and the present rate of payment of the public debt all the bonds subject to optional time of payment, will have been called in.

Then, if there be a surplus in the Treasury, there will be no outlet for it save by purchase at large premium of long bonds, or the disbursement of it through appropriations for purposes beyond the ordinary and economical needs of the Government. It is, therefore, for Congress to consider the propriety of empowering this Department to buy the long bonds at a high premium. If it shall deem it politic

to make general purchases of bonds at such premium for extinguishment, it should by law give to this Department express authority so to do, and thus adopt that policy.²⁹

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EXAMINATIONS IN THE STATE DEPARTMENT

LETTER FROM THE SECRETARY OF STATE TO THE SECRETARY OF THE CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 12.—The Secretary of State has addressed a communication to W. L. Budge, Secretary United States Civil Service Commission, in reply to the question what branches of the service in that general bureau in the State Department will require

"It is understood that such officers as the heads of bureaus, translator, etc., of this Department, are not required to pass any examination. Your question, therefore, relates simply to the clerks of this Department from

"It is necessary that most of the clerks of the Department of State should have at least sufficient knowledge of one or more foreign languages to read them in the original documents received. Nevertheless, it is not absolutely necessary that every clerk should have this qualifi-

“Further, all clerks except those employed simply as copy-

ists (and these are very few in number), should have sufficient knowledge of the Constitution of the United States, the powers of the different branches of the Government, the jurisdiction of the different Executive Departments, of international law, and the prominent facts of history to enable them to conduct a correspondence, not involving difficult questions. It is absolutely essential that they

"There is no permanent division of the clerks of this Department among the bureaus. All clerks are subject to the direction of the Secretary, and assigned to different work according to the demands of the service, and the force is entirely too small to admit of any other practice, were it desirable."

" Under the circumstances, I suggest that a special examination be given to all applicants who may wish to enter this Department which shall conform in some measure to the examination heretofore, at one time required in the case of applicants for certain grades of consulate, and now required in the case of applicants for consular clerkships. This embraces such general questions, not too technical or detailed, in relation to the following

- * "The writing of one or more dispatches or letters, the subject to be indicated by the examiner ;

" Arithmetic, to a sufficient extent to show that the candidate is able to keep the simplest kind of accounts; and
 " The more important facts of history.
 " Much stress should, in my opinion, be laid upon the ability of the candidate to compose and write letters, as his principal duties in this Department would probably be ultimately those of a corresponding clerk. . . .
 " It is not expected that the scheme of examination

thus outlined should be pushed to severity or that inability to answer specific questions should necessary entail failure, the object aimed at being to discover the general ability of the candidate to become a corresponding clerk, competent after receiving general directions from a superior officer of the Department, to conduct the details of a correspondence after a fair opportunity in the Department to learn the methods of diplomatic and consular

business."

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THE ARMY AND NAVY.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 19.—Lieutenant-Colonel Robert S. LaMotte, Twelfth Infantry, has been relieved from duty as a member of the general court-martial convened at Rye Beach Island, New York Harbor, by an

Major Dallas Baehre, Surgeon United States Army, has been ordered to proceed from Philadelphia, Penn., to

The extension of leave of absence on account of sickness granted Major William P. Gould, Paymaster United States Army, April 11, 1883, has been still further extended six months on account of sickness.

Leave of absence for six months with permission to go beyond sea has been granted Captain Wirt Davis, Fourth Cavalry.

Leave of absence for four months to take effect on or about December 1, 1883, has been granted Captain John B. Parke, Tenth Infantry.

The leave of absence granted Captain Charles Bendire, First Cavalry, August 22, 1883, has been extended two months.

Lieutenant-Colonel James J. Dana, Deputy Quartermaster-General, Chief Quartermaster's Department of